

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1 (currently amended): A discharge tube comprising:

———an insulator tube with an inner face and an outer face,

———an inner electrode which is in contact with the inner face-,

———an outer electrode which is in contact with the outer face-,

———a contact element which, at least along the greatest part of the length of the outer electrode-, is in electrical contact therewith,

wherein the outer electrode, at a radial distance from the insulator tube, forms a guiding element in which the contact element is received.

2 (previously presented): A discharge tube according to claim 1, wherein the contact element, along the entire length of the outer electrode, is in electrical contact therewith.

3 and 4: (canceled).

5 (previously presented): A discharge tube according to claim 1,
wherein the guiding element is provided in the form of a channel and the contact element in the form of a wire, wherein the contact element is inserted into the guiding element.

6-18: Cancelled.

19 (previously presented): A discharge tube according to claim 1, wherein the inner electrode is produced from a flexible laminar material, and there is provided a spring element with at least one metal wire which, along at least part of the length of the inner electrode, is in contact therewith and loads same against the inner face.

20 (previously presented): A discharge tube according to claim 19, wherein the spring element is provided in the form of a helical spring, wherein the outer diameter of the helical spring, in the untensioned, non-mounted condition is greater than the inner diameter of the inner electrode mounted in the insulator tube.

21 (previously presented): A discharge tube according to claim 1, wherein the outer electrode is produced from a radially expandable woven wire fabric or braided wire fabric in the shape of a hose.

22 (previously presented): A discharge tube according to claim 1, wherein the insulator tube is produced from glass, more particularly from lime soda glass or borosilicate glass.

23 (previously presented): A discharge tube according to claim 1, wherein that the insulator tube, at a first longitudinal end, comprises a base which is produced so as to be integral

with the insulator tube, and that the insulator tube, at a second longitudinal end comprises an aperture.

24 (previously presented): A discharge tube according to claim 23, wherein the insulator tube, along part of its length, is designed so as to be tapered towards the aperture.